

Circular Letter No. 371.

October 10, 1906.

To Instructors of Preparatory Teachers.

Gentlemen:--

In accordance with the law, instructors of preparatory teachers are required to meet all the preparatory teachers assigned to their care at least once a week for the purpose of instructing them in the course of study prescribed by the Department for their use. In addition to the formal instruction, it is expected that the instructors shall advise and assist the preparatory teachers under their care, conferring with them in regard to the problems which must of necessity confront inexperienced teachers.

All preparatory teachers have passed an examination in the various subjects of the sixth grade of our graded schools. They may be supposed, then, to be ready to begin work equivalent to that of the seventh grade of the course of study. Instructors are authorized to obtain from the Superintendents the necessary books and to begin work with the preparatory teachers in the subjects of the seventh grade, except in English, in which subject preparatory teachers are to study one of the regular

courses prescribed by the Department for Porto Rican Teachers, either the elementary or the intermediate course as may be determined by the Superintendent. In Spanish the work in Grammar only should be covered. In connection with the work in Geography and Physiology, all the work in Nature Study provided in the course of study for the second, third and fourth grades should be included.

If in any case the preparatory teachers are not ready to take up the work as outlined for the seventh grade, instructors should confer with the Superintendents and arrange for more elementary work. It is to be hoped, however, that each of the preparatory teachers will be able to pass at the end of the present school year in an examination which will correspond to the completion of the work of the seventh grade.

A copy of the edition of the School Laws, 1906, containing that text of the Act of the Legislature in regard to preparatory teachers, will be sent to each instructor.

Respectfully,

Commissioner of Education.

E. W. L. - KBH - 433.